In other news

May 5, 2014

Native American VAF recipient featured in new podcast

Los Alamos National Laboratory's Community Programs Office is rolling out new podcasts for 2014, continuing the podcast series launched last year. The Native American Entrepreneurs podcast features two-time Native American Venture Acceleration Fund (NAVAF) recipient Elmer Torres, who, along with his wife, Deborah, owns Than Povi Fine Art Gallery and Gift Shop in Cuyumungue, about 10 miles north of Santa Fe.

The couple opened the gallery in February 2013, after Elmer Torres retired from Los Alamos in 2011 after 41 years of service, most recently as tribal liaison in the Laboratory's Government Affairs Office. The Native American Entrepreneurs podcast

explores what makes Than Povi Gallery unique and discusses how the NAVAF investment is being applied.

To listen to the podcast, go to podcast host Soundcloud's LANL Community Connections Podcast website.

La Cueva High School wins top prize in Supercomputing Challenge

Over 250 New Mexico students and their teachers participated in the 24th annual New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge expo and awards ceremony on April 21 and 22 in Los Alamos. Eli Echt-Wilson and Albert Zuo from La Cueva High School in Albuquerque won the competition's top award for a unique model simulating deciduous tree growth at the level of individual branches and leaves.

Four-time finalist Cole Kendrick from Los Alamos High School won second place this year for an astrophysics model investigating the formation and lifecycle of nova explosions (cataclysmic nuclear events in a white dwarf). A trio from Las Cruces—Ian Rankin, Ahmed Muhyi and Sophia Sanchez-Maes of the Young Women in Computing program—won third place for a biofuel synthesis project.

"The goal of the yearlong event is to teach student teams how to use powerful computers to analyze, model, and solve real-world problems," said David Kratzer of Los Alamos National Laboratory's High Performance Computer Systems group and the Laboratory's coordinator of the Supercomputing Challenge. "Participating students improve their understanding of technology by developing skills in scientific inquiry, modeling, computing, communications, and teamwork."

The winning students received over $40,000 in individual scholarships, including $20,000 from the Laboratory's Computer, Computational and Statistical Sciences Division.

For a complete list of winners, go to the New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge website. The students' project reports are available from the Supercomputing Challenge's Final Reports page.

Also see the "Expression of interest due for Supercomputing Challenge's Summer Teacher Institute" entry in this issue's For Your Calendar section.

Student registrations for the 2014-2015 Supercomputing Challenge need to be submitted in September. Any New Mexico elementary-, middle- and high-school student is eligible to enter.